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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH  
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

# I. Youth Activities of the Communist Party of Austria

25X1 Youth activities of the Communist Party of Austria are directed by the "Jugendaktiv" of the Central Committee of the Party, which has its headquarters at Wasagasse 10, Vienna IX. The Jugendaktiv, under the direct control of Friedl FUERNBERG, General Secretary of the Party, has twelve permanent members, including Otto BRICHACEK, Herbert STEINER, and Paul FRISCHAUER, all of the Freie Oesterreichische Jugend (FOeJ); and one representative each of the "Junge Garde," "Demokratische Vereinigung Kinderland," and "Kommunistische Studentenschaft." Professor Leo STERN of the University of Vienna; Georg BREUER, editor of the Communist youth magazine "Jugend Voran"; Friedl FUERNBERG; and three other members of the Central Committee of the Party are the other permanent members. Plenary sessions of the Jugendaktiv are held at irregular intervals every fortnight. In general, there is no voting at meetings, and all decisions are made by FUERNBERG. The Jugendaktiv controls the following organizations:

- a. Freie Oesterreichische Jugend: for youths older than 14; this organization styles itself "non-partisan."
- b. Junge Garde: for children 10 to 14 years old.
- c. Demokratische Vereinigung Kinderland: for children under 10.
- d. Kommunistische Studentenschaft

The offices of Junge Garde, Demokratische Vereinigung Kinderland, and Freie Oesterreichische Jugend are situated at Felberstrasse 42 - 46, Vienna XV, in the "Haus der Jugend." On 15 December 1947, a pass system was instituted in the Haus der Jugend. In explaining this, BRICHACEK pointed out that it was primarily a security measure

25X1 aimed at neutralizing the activities of the Austrian State Police  
25X1 as well as a means of preventing a recurrence of the thefts which have recently taken place in the building.

## II. The Freie Oesterreichische Jugend (FOeJ)

The organizational structure of the Freie Oesterreichische Jugend is headed by a

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

National Leadership, to which are subordinated eight Provincial Leaderships and the Municipal Leadership of Vienna.

**Federal Leadership**

Chief: Otto BRICHACEK

Deputy: Fritz WZISSENBECK

Head of POeJ for the city of Vienna.

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Deputy: Herma SAGMEISTER

POeJ Provincial leader for Carinthia.

Federal Secretary: Herbert STEINER A member of the KPÖe for many years, and a personal friend of Friedl FUERNBERG.

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**Provincial Leaderships**

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**Oberoesterreich:**

Provincial Leader: Josef BRANDNER, Vöcklabruck

Deputy and Provincial Secretary: Edi WALCHNER, Neuseng-Letten, Bezirk Steyr.

**Steiermark:**

Provincial Leader: Walter KOSMUS, Graz

Deputy: Peter KROPZIGG, Leoben

Secretary: Heinz HERGET, Graz

Social Problems: August STOPACHER, Graz

Education: Herbert LESKOVAR, Graz

Finance: Karl POELZL, Graz

Sports: Sepp PODHOSTNIK, Graz

Important Bezirk Officials: Erwin WEDENIG, Knittelfeld

Anna Gruber, Knittelfeld

Franz DOPPELHOFFER, Krieglach

Erna TERLER, Muerzzuschlag

Fridl KERZEN, Leoben

August THEISSEL, Leoben

Felix SPOERK, Voitsberg

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Kärnten:

Provincial Leader: Herma SACMEISTER, Klagenfurt

Tirol:

Provincial Leader: Leo SCHARNER, Innsbruck

Burgenland:

Provincial Leader: Hilde WISSINGER, Eisenstadt

Wien:

Municipal Leader: Fritz WEISSENBECK

Weapons and Arms

No arms are kept by the Federal or Municipal Leaderships, but some leading officials have pistols. It is known that the FOeJ organization of District XXI has 25 machine-pistols and hand-weapons stored in a depot. The Goetheshof group (see below under District XXI of Vienna) was trained during the summer of 1947 in Kaltenleutgeben by officers of the Soviet Army; the same course was attended by 192 leading officials of the FOeJ of Niederoesterreich.   Comment: Kaltenleutgeben has previously been known as a Communist indoctrination school.) Other weapons depots are said to be maintained by the FOeJ in Horn, Eisenstadt, and Urfahr.

Information and Liaison Activities

The FOeJ has no information service of its own, but relies on that of the KPOs in cases of necessity. Paul FRISCHAUER has trained four or five of his men to gather information on the work of other youth organizations, but their reporting is irregular and disorganized.

Contact between FOeJ branches and the Soviet occupation forces is maintained through the KPOs. In many cases, the district FOeJ organizations and groups in the Soviet Zone are on good terms with the local authorities of the Soviet Army and receive fuel and food from them. The American occupation forces and American relief organizations also furnish the FOeJ and other youth organizations relief packages.

Finances

The financial situation of FOeJ is described as desperate, since mismanagement and corruption prevail in the Federal and Vienna Municipal Leaderships. The amounts furnished monthly by the KPOs are not known, but they are estimated to be between

Publications

"Jugend Voran": editor, Georg BREUER

"Jugend" editors, Rosa GROSSMANN and Kurt MELLACH

The editorial offices of both papers are located in the Haus der Jugend. "Jugend Voran" is printed by Globus I, Fleischmarkt 3-5, Vienna I; "Jugend," by Globus II, Gumpendorferstrasse 40-44, Vienna VI.

The bulk of the training and propaganda material of the FOeJ is printed by the "Fiskus" firm of Judenplatz 5, Vienna I.

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III. The Vienna Municipal Leadership of FOeJ

Municipal Leader: Fritz WEISSENBECK

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Secretary: Walter OFFERKUH

Education and Training: Paul FRISCHAUER

Social Questions: Ossi KNEISSEL

Financial Questions: Herbert GROSSMANN

Organizing: Franz RATZEK

Sports: Erich NOVACEK

Education: Emmi WALTER

Industries and Inspection of Individual  
Districts: Karl OEBENBICLER

Manager of the Haus der Jugend: Leni UNGAR

All the persons mentioned above are paid employees of the FOeJ, earning between S 450 and S 1200 a month. Three secretaries are employed, and a number of FOeJ members occasionally work as voluntary helpers. Once a week, usually on Wednesday, a meeting of the Municipal Leadership, including WEISSENBECK, OFFERKUH, KNEISSEL, and usually BRICHACEK and STEINER, is held to discuss current problems and to issue directives.

Membership:

The official membership count for November 1947 totalled 3800 in Vienna. During the month of November, 100 new members joined, while 64 dropped out. In October there were 58 new members and 31 resignations. These figures do not show the exact strength of the organization; the list of resignations enumerates only members who have officially left the organization and does not include those who have simply ceased to take part in activities. The actual number of active members is estimated at between one-third and one-half of the official number, i.e., from 1300 to 1900. The membership lists carry the names of a number of persons who have not attended any meetings of the FOeJ for more than a year, some of whom have joined other organizations in the meantime. The estimated number of actual FOeJ members corresponds to the number of persons attending public meetings and marching in parades. About 800 FOeJ members are thorough-going Communists, but only 292 are members of the KPÖ.

Political Orientation of Members:

All important FOeJ officials in the different districts are members of the KPÖ, and about 75 per cent are said to be convinced Communists. One third of the ordinary members are believed to be more or less Socialist in their sympathies, another third are said to have no political convictions, and the rest are described as genuine Communists or sincere Communist sympathizers.

Recent Internal Troubles:

In the Eighth District a group of youths with no interest in politics controls the organization and prevents any kind of political activity, devoting its time exclusively to playing ping-pong. In the Seventh District, Communist officials are unable to

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control an anti-Communist circle comprising about a third of the members of the district group. It has been impossible to hold indoctrination meetings in the Tenth District, where two groups have announced their intention of quitting the FOeJ and founding a private sports club.

Vienna District Organizations:

First District: 56 members, 17 of whom are active. Regular meetings are well prepared, and there is some political training.

Second District: 130 members, 60 active. In November, two new groups of 15 members each were formed; in the same month 3 meetings with moving pictures were held and were attended by 90 persons.

Third District: 55 members, 10 of whom are active. Regular discussions are held, but otherwise there is little activity.

Fourth District: 70 members. Activity is irregular.

Fifth District: 160 members, 50 active. In November, two meetings were held and a moving picture was shown to an audience of 150.

Sixth District: 55 members, 20 active. Occasional evenings for discussion are arranged; otherwise, there is little activity.

Seventh District: 60 members, 20 of whom are active; in November, ten new members joined. A moving picture was attended by 70 persons in November. Most members are uninterested in politics. Meeting place: Lerchenfelderstrasse 61, Vienna VII.

Eighth District: 70 members, 30 active; in November, two new members joined. In December 1947, fourteen members left the organization to join the Rote Falken, Austrian Socialist Party youth movement. Meeting places are situated at Pfeilgasse 3 and in Langegasse. The District Leader is Gisel ISER of Lindengasse 18, Vienna VIII.

Ninth District: 50 members, 30 active. Strong schismatic tendencies are apparent. Headquarters is at Porzellangasse 33a.

Tenth District: 310 members, 150 of whom are active; ten new members joined in November. Dances were attended by 100 to 150 persons; a moving picture drew an audience of 180.

Eleventh District: 260 members, 100 active; in November, thirteen new members joined.

Twelfth District: 300 members, 120 of whom are estimated to be active; in November, five new members joined. A group of the "Junge Garde" was formed. Some of the members are very active politically.

Thirteenth District: 150 members, 50 active. A moving picture performance was attended by 50 persons. In Speising a group of twenty men was extremely active politically but left the organization to join the Communist Party in December. One member of the group remained in FOeJ as an organizer.

Fourteenth District: 70 members, of whom 25 are believed to be active.

Fifteenth District: 150 members, 80 active; in November, 20 new members joined. In December, more than 100 members were threatened with loss of membership because they were not sufficiently active.

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Sixteenth District:

320 members, 110 active.

Seventeenth District:

65 members, 40 active.

Eighteenth District:

210 members, 70 of whom are active. In November, eight new members joined. A moving picture performance was attended by 140 persons.

Nineteenth District:

100 members, 40 active. In November, the first Junge Garde group in the District was formed. A moving picture attracted 90 persons.

Twentieth District:

230 members, 100 active. Headquarters is at Leipzigerstrasse 11 - 13, XX.

Twenty-first District:

1250 members, 900 of whom are active. The District Leader is Hans BENEDIKT, who has been a KPOe member for many years, and fought in Spain and in Yugoslavia with the TITO forces. It is reported that an active group of 27 armed men in the Goethehof building next to the Reichsbruecke, act as a sort of protection corps for the Municipal Leadership. BENEDIKT, who is said to possess a Soviet weapon permit, came to the FOeJ Municipal Headquarters on 17 November in a car bearing a Russian license plate and said to FRISCHAUER, "The eight machine pistols are finally at our disposal".

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